



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 28, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 23 totaled 291,057, down 12.5 percent from the comparable week of 1988 and 12.1 percent below the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were down 16.5 percent in the East and 7.7 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, coal loadings were down 24,744 cars (19.5 percent). Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were down 3,964 cars (21.1 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 51 weeks of 1989 totaled 17,032,395, down 1.5 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 112,221 trailers and/or containers for the week ended December 23, down 0.7 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 51 weeks of 1989 was 5,869,541 trailers and/or containers, 3.1 percent above the comparable 1988 total.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended December 23 totaled 16.7 billion, 12.6 percent below the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 980.6 billion ton-miles, down 0.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 1989	COMPARISON WITH			
		SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	28,091	29,045	-3.3 %	31,097	-8.7 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	2,174	2,969	-26.8	2,345	-7.3
Metallic Ores	19,771	20,207	-2.2	20,677	-4.4
Coal	102,072	126,816	-19.5	125,097	-18.4
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	7,829	10,426	-24.9	10,720	-27.0
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,176	8,205	11.8	9,253	-.8
Grain Mill Products	9,860	9,981	-1.2	10,260	-3.9
Food & Kindred Products	8,729	8,623	1.2	9,251	-5.6
Primary Forest Products	7,996	9,770	-18.2	9,038	-11.5
Lumber & Wood Products	6,334	7,063	-10.3	6,096	3.9
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	9,657	10,829	-10.8	10,069	-4.1
Chemicals	26,584	27,287	-2.6	26,299	1.1
Petroleum Products	5,078	4,874	4.2	5,176	-1.9
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7,198	8,637	-16.7	8,458	-14.9
Coke	5,127	5,428	-5.5	5,577	-8.1
Metals & Products	8,041	9,215	-12.7	8,475	-5.1
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	14,864	18,828	-21.1	18,830	-21.1
Waste & Scrap Materials	6,840	7,958	-14.0	8,280	-17.4
All Other Carloads	5,636	6,558	-14.1	6,225	-9.5
Total	291,057	332,719	-12.5 %	331,223	-12.1 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 23, 1989			CUMULATIVE: 51 WEEKS ENDING DECEMBER 23, 1989		
	1989	1988	CHANGE	1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	291,057	332,719	-12.5 %	17,032,395	17,298,085	-1.5 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	65,224	66,224	-1.5	3,407,867	3,432,210	-.7
Containers	46,997	46,773	.5	2,461,674	2,259,950	8.9
Total	112,221	112,997	-.7	5,869,541	5,692,160	3.1
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	16.7	19.1	-12.6 %	980.6	986.0	-.5 %

NOTES: Union Pacific figures include the Missouri-Kansas-Texas. UP's 1988 traffic is the sum of UP's and MKT's traffic. Traffic interchanged between the two roads during 1988 has not been excluded from "received" traffic. Carloadings are estimated for: Week 51, 1989 - AN, DRGW, GBW, SP, SSW & TRC.